

7/12/79

Mr. Les Whitten
114 Eastmore Drive
Silver Spring, Md. 20901

Dear Les,

I write you at your home to help you keep your two lives separated. And as a friend to urge that you continue to keep yourself detached from the kind of rotten propaganda ~~was~~ in today's column and on the radio, which I happened to hear early this morning while doing a little outside work.

There is an element of the really ridiculous in it. Those assassins leaked some of the same grabage on the National Enquirer. It sure will make the column look great to those ~~senior~~ editors who saw the Enquirer version, billed as never before told yet!

This time by normal and once respected journalistic tradition Jack has even less excuse because of something that should not have happened. By happenstance I wrote one of Marcello's lawyers, to whom I have never even spoken. I did not expect him to use any part of my letter, he didn't ask me but he did send me a copy. to which I've said nothing. He quoted me accurately, added an honorary title for I don't know why, and he sent copies to the Post, the New Orleans papers and probably others I don't recall.

So Jack knew that I had said there is not even basis for the suspicion. Without questioning he repeated the combination of plagiarism, improvisation, irrationality and straight out inaccuracy (to say nothing of irrelevancy and exaggeration beyond reason) coming from those who flunked out as apprentice Keystone Kops.

This particular wrinkle is the concoction of Mike Ewing, whose prior claim to fame in the field is getting Bud involved in a libel suit over a similar adventure in nightmaring in print. He sold it to Holden, who had no second source, and to the committee, which was bankrupt and saw any straw as a life-raft. (The case was filed by a mafia type named Braden.)

Don't ask me to make a value judgement between ripping off the pocket and ripping off the mind, which Jack has done on this subject from the first. Also don't ask me for detail over what I'm here telling you. There is more I want to obtain and I want to hold what I have for my own possible uses, where I don't have to worry about someone with a past to defend to himself.

There came a time when Jack, for all the world as though he had just read a dyeflectic text on how to be a cub reporter, went to those in the FBI who detested him and gave them to understand that he was impressed by Garrison's "case." This kind of scared those who have much to hide and they had a convenient disinformation they had already used more importantly and more secretly than what was then leaked to the column. More effectively, too. A total irrelevancy then lied about because the Warren Commission was aware of the CIA's plots against Castro and of Castro's reaction, the Barker story. Both the FBI and the Secret Service provided the dope, as I suppose Rowley did not know when Drew spoke to him. Liebelser is one of the counsel who asked for and got the version published in New Orleans over which Schweitzer was conned.

In my opinion the opinion as distinguished from non-fact in the column is libellous. What was on radio was worse. The statement that Marcello arranged an alibi is wild. Ferrie was in that court at that time because Wasserman had hired him through G. Wray Gill as the investigator. And Ferrie's evidence appears to have won for Marcello in court. So Ferrie had every reason to be in court and with no possible connection with an alibi. (He also never had that office, Ewing's invention. But the CIA's major Cuban front did.)

Best wishes,